

CLAIM:

1. A computer-implemented process for recovering steganographically-encoded data from a set of image data, comprising:

- 5 (a) selecting an excerpt of the image data;
- (b) detecting a spectral signature therein;
- (c) processing the set of image data using a computer processor and memory associated therewith to effect a rotation of the set of image data;
- (d) repeating the aforesaid steps to determine an orientation that yields a spectral signature of the lowest frequency; and
- 10 (e) processing the set of image data at the rotation that yields the lowest frequency spectral signature to recover the steganographically-encoded data therefrom.

2. The process of claim 1 in which the data set corresponds to an image having a vertical axis and a horizontal axis, and in which said excerpt corresponds to a rectangular region centered about an axis that is parallel to neither said vertical or horizontal axes.

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3. The process of claim 1 which further includes rescaling the image data, at the rotation which yields the lowest frequency spectral signature, until a difference between a corresponding signature spectrum and a reference signature spectrum is minimized.

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4. The process of claim 1 in which said detecting includes performing a fast fourier transform on said excerpt of image data.

5. In a photo-duplication kiosk that includes a lens for imaging a customer-provided original onto an opto-electronic detector, and a print-writing device for exposing and developing an emulsion substrate in accordance with image data gathered by said detector, an improvement comprising:

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- a memory for receiving data from the opto-electronic detector;
- a processor for processing data in the memory to detect the presence of certain copyright data steganographically encoded therein, and for interrupting the print-writing device in response thereto;
- 30 the processor including means for detecting the steganographically encoded copyright data notwithstanding rotation of the customer-provided original from an orientation at which it was originally encoded.